

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GABORO 00214 211414Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /090 W

-----211519Z 127922 /43

R 211300Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9346

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 391

UNCLAS GABORONE 0214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNSC, BC, RH, US, UK

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON US - UK ABSTENTION ON BOTSWANA RESOLUTION

REF: GABORONE 200

1. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS OF JAN. 20 FEATURES FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL CRITICAL OF US-UK ABSTENTION ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RHODESIA. VERBATUM TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

2. QTE. THAT ANGLO-AMERICAN VOTE. OF COURSE THAT BRITISH AND AMERICAN UN SECURITY COUNCIL ABSTENTION FROM RESOLUTION 403 (1977) CONDEMNING RHODESIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST BOTSWANA COULD NOT BE GREETED WITH A SMILE BUT WITH A FROWN BY BOTSWANA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ARCHIBOLD MMOGWE.

3. QTE. THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN ABSTENTION OR SYMPATHY WITH THE RACIST RHODESIAN REGIME FROM THE RESOLUTION COULD NOT SURPRISE HISTORIANS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS EXPERTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GABORO 00214 211414Z

4. QTE: IT DID NOT COME AS A SURPRISE AS ALL THAT BECAUSE THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE TENDENCIES OF SYMPATHIZING WITH THE MINORITIES. IN VIETNAM THEY SYMPATHISED WITH A SMALL CLIQUE TOTALLY REJECTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE VIETNAMESE. IN CHINA THEY SYMPATHISED WITH CHINA KEI SHEK LEADING THE TAIWANG PROVINCE MINORITY AND IGNORED ONE QUARTER OF THE WORLD POPULATION -

CHINESE. IN CAMBODIA THEY SYMPATHISED WITH LON NOL LEADING THE MINORITY. AND THEREFORE IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THEY SHOW SYMPATHY WITH IAN SMITH LEADING WHITE REACIST MINORITY WITHOUT SAYING SO IN EXPLICIT TERMS.

5. QTE: EVEN MINISTER MOGWE PROBABLY DID NOT EXPECT THESE POWERS TO GREET THE RESOLUTION WITH A "HURRAH." HE WAS ONLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATES AS HE OBSERVED IN HIS OPENING SPEECH. "THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA HAVE BEEN GREATLY SHAKEN BY THE RECENT INCIDENTS ALONG WITH BORDER WITH SOUTHERN RHODESIA. I HOPE THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE SUCH AS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH IN THE UNITED NATIONS."

6. QTE: THE TWO SUPER POWERS USED THE RICHARD MISSION AS THEIR REASON TO ABSTAIN. OUR SUBMISSION IS THAT THAT THEY CONSIDERED THE PHENOMENON WAS NOT THE ESSENCE. THE RICHARD MISSION HAS ITS OWN MERIT AND DID NOT MATTER SO MUCH AT THE TIME. WHAT MATTERED MOST WAS THE POINT AT ISSUE - THE QUESTION OF RHODESIA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST BOTSWANA AND WHAT WAS TO BE DONE FOR BOTSWANA IN RELATION TO THIS.

7. TAKEN AT FACE VALUE THE RICHARD MISSION EXCUSE SOUNDED LOGICAL BUT IT WAS TOTALLY IRRELEVANT ISSUE. OUR MAIN WORRY AS AT PRESENT IS NOT THE EXCUSE GIVEN BUT THE ABSTENTION WHICH BY ALL STANDARDS OF REASONING IS AN EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY WITH THE RACIST REGIME IN RHODESIA.

8. QTE: THIS REACTIONARY ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE TWO POWERS HAVE, HOWEVER TAUGHT US A FEW HARD LESSONS AND WILL CERTAINLY RESHAPE BOTSWANA'S THINKING ABOUT BRITAIN AND THE US.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GABORO 00214 211414Z

9. FOR THESE POWERS, WHO PURPORT TO HELP THE CAUSE OF LIBERATION BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND THROUGH DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE AN OPPORTUNITY PAR EXCELLENCE HAS BEEN OFFERED. MR. MOGWE HIMSELF HOPED AS A RESULT OF THE ABSTENTION, THE RICHARD MISSION WOULD SUCCEED "FOR IF FAILED, THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA WOULD NEVER FORGE THE DECISION OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO SUBORDINATE BOTSWANA'S INTERESTS TO THE RICHARD MISSION." AND HE WAS DEAD RIGHT. YES THAT ANGLO-AMERICAN VOTE WAS NOT ALL THAT ENTERTAINING. UNQTE.

10. NOET: EDITORIAL HAS BEEN REPRODUCED AS WRITTEN, INCLUDING SPELLING ERRORS.
NORALDND

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, UNSC RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GABORO00214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0116
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770130/aaaabane.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f20e61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GABORONE 200
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3541375
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL ON US - UK ABSTENTION ON BOTSWANA RESOLUTION
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, BC, RH, US, UK, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f20e61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009